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ABSTRACT

Papers from the opening session of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) conference are presented. "New Beginnings" (Robert Wedgeworth) opens the conference and pays tribute to S. R. Ranganathan, in whose memory the conference was dedicated, and William Warner Bishop, also a past president of IFLA. "Library and Information Policy Perspectives and Ranganathan's Heritage" (Eric de Grolier) acknowledges the debt the international library community owes to S. R. Ranganathan, and reviews his primary concerns for the organization and design of national library systems and the importance of recognizing the needs of users of information. "The IFLA Core Programme for the Universal Availability of Publications (UAP)" (Graham P. Cornish) reviews this program intended to make all publications available to all who require them whenever and wherever they are. The goals of the UAP program for the medium-term are summarized, and its accomplishments to date are reviewed. (SLD)

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IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE NEW DELHI 1992

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NEW BEGINNINGS

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PRESIDENT
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INTRODUCTION

It is with great pride and pleasure that I open this 58th IFLA General Conference in New Delhi. The Third General Conference to be held in Asia since 1980,much has occurred in the world at large since we last met . The momentous events of 1991 that have had a dramatic effect on the political world have also affected the library world in ways that will be much in discussion this week.

These are new beginnings for IFLA as well. As the new president the most important task I have undertaken with the executive board has been the selection of a secretary general to succeed Paul Nauta on the 1st of October. We are pleased to introduce Leo Yoogt who I hope you will get to know during this meeting. We will , of course have and opportunity to express4ss our appreciation Paul Nauta throughout this week as well.

TRIBUTES

Two prominent figures in the history of IFLA deserve special tribute this week. One Dr. Ranganathan, to whose memory this conference is dedicated, will discussed in depth during in depth during the plenary session which follows. Another is of special significance related to my election as president of IFLA.

Only one other US librarian has served as IFLA president, Dr. William Warner Bishop of the university of Michigan. Bishop was educated in classical studies at Michigan and later at the American School of classical studies at Rome. He taught Greek and Latin for several years before his first library position at Brooklyn Polytechnic school in New York. He then moved to Princeton University and the library of Congress, working with two giants of U.S. librarianship Ernest Cushing Richardson and Herbert Putnam. He served as university librarian at Michigan from 1915 to 1941.

Bishop was one of the first U. S. librarians to promote an international approach to the field. He was also a great advocate of university education for librarians leading to the establishment of the graduate program at Michigan in 1926, which he chaired until his retirement in 1941.

Ranganathan, who broadened our total vision of librarianship and Bishop, who raised our standards for library education, provide an enduring legacy that helps to sustain us as we address the problems of our times.

STATUS AND CONDITION OF LIBRARY WORLD

Perhaps the most common problem the library world shares is the impact of the current world wide economic recession.

Weak demand for manufactured products has slowed the economies of the industrialized nations resulting in a reduction in funding of even our greatest libraries. Persistently low prices for basic commodities (sugar, coffee, wheat) upon which developing country economies are so dependent have virtually halted progress towards bridging the gap of library development that separates countries north and south.

At the same time political turmoil has led to the destruction of some libraries in the Balkans and parts of Eastern Europe while new governments have initiated painful restructuring and reorganization of others.

Fighting to sustain itself in a weak international economy, the publishing industry has seen its library market shrink dramatically as prices for books journals and other library materials increased. Similarly, access to the hardware and software of library technologies has moved beyond the grasp of many libraries excited by the potential these tools represent for improving library operations.

However, reports from library communities around the world are not without examples of progress, innovation, vision courage and persistence.

The new national library of Argentina, dedicated this past April, was originally begun in the 1960's. After many years of delay the leadership of Argentina recognized the important symbolic and practical implications of completing this project.

School libraries have expanded to over 90% of the schools in Botswana providing basic support to primary and secondary education while demonstrating the effect of cooperative efforts by national education and library leaders.

Within the past decade Mexico has established several thousand new community libraries realizing for the first time a nationwide system of public libraries. Planned and organized by the federal Government, these libraries required the participation by local states to provide facilities and staffing.

Australia has produced several major reports focusing on national information policies that command much attention as our respective countries strive to understand and exploit the information age.

Perhaps the most ambitious current plans emanate from France with its revitalization of the biblilotheque nationale, now the home of the international focal point for the preservation and conservation program of IFLA.

The new bibliotheque de France shows great promise for advancing technological innovation with its internal operating systems and its plans for an initial collection of over 3,000 digitized volumes.

While these reports are heartening and give us renewed courage, the overall perspectives on the library world is one of enormous growth in demand for access to information at a time when investment in libraries has declined.

IMAGE AND STATUS

Beyond the effects of the economic recession some attribute the current difficulties of libraries in attracting greater5 support to the image and status of librarians. We look forward to the report of the deliberations on this topic by the pre-conference.

We have spent most of this century expanding the capabilities of libraries. Earlier much of our success was visible in the new buildings constructed and large collections amassed.

In more recent decades the progress in developing computerized internal systems and international networks to support resource sharing has been largely invisible to the general public.

Although libraries have been directly involved in harnessing some of the advances in information technology for general use, they are not generally considered to be primary agencies for this information age. Although history has repeatedly shown us that each new information technology does not replace the old, but adds to it, there is a persistent belief that libraries may become obsolete. Knowledgeable observers attribute this attitude to the promotional efforts of the hardware and software manufacturers that overstate the benefits of their products.

There may be little we can do to directly influence our image and status, but we can sharpen our focus on the important contributions libraries can make in support of education, in support of productivity and in support of empowering individuals to be able to improve the quality of their lives

IMPLICATION OF RANGANATHAN AND BISHOP

The lives of S.R. Ranganathan and William Warner Bishop have significant implications for us today. Ranganathan led us to

appreciate a much expanded concept of the "ABOUTNESS" of works we classify for retrieval. This laid the basis for classification systems that permit more precise convergence of user needs and materials that meet those need.

The expanded capabilities of library collections shared internationally, retrieval systems that can exploit many relationships in documents and better educated librarians that Bishop advocated allow us to focus more effectively through improvements in the quality of information services.

One of my former colleagues at Columbia University has said that in some respects every thing dies for lack of information. We know from experience that individuals all over the world die each day for lack of basic information about health and clinical treatments. We also know that businesses fail each fail each day for lack of information that might have opened a new market, or improved their product or alerted them to some hazard before it occurred.

More generally, we know the development of literate better informed populations requires more than learning how to read and basic education. It also requires the provision of the means to develop and improve the reading habit and the means to inform oneself beyond what is presented in the daily news.

Ranganathan and Bishop understood and were excited about the potential for our field. Their example should give us strength to renew our efforts in a more concentrated way to demonstrate that library and information services offer substantial benefits toward improving the quality of life through support of basic programs in health, education, industry and spiritual well being.

As the late Jesse Shera pointed out, we must decide whether we wish to manage service stations on the superhighways of information, or become traffic engineers managing information flows to address priority needs of our respective societies.

This will be the challenge of the IFLA leadership. This will be the objective of emerging library communities. We have the potential for IFLA to offer a new and vital leadership for libraries and librarians worldwide.

Change brings about new beginnings. It is my hope that we can exploit those new opportunities for leadership in IFLA and throughout the library world.

AUGUST 30, 1992

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PLENARY SESSION

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION POLICY PERSPECTIVES AND RANGANATHAN'S HERITAGE

Eric de Grolier
I.S.S.C., Paris

May 24th, 1992

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LIBRARY AND INFORMATION POLICY PERSPECTIVES AND RANGANATHAN'S HERITAGE

0 - Introduction

It was indeed a felicitous decision when IFLA's governing bodies resolved that the 1992 General Conference would be held in this city, just a few miles from the place where Ranganathan lived, taught and wrote, and just a few days after the centenary of his birth in the southern part of his country.

Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan is rightly considered as the "Founding Father" of the library movement in India, but in a wider perspective his figure could appropriately be included in the circle - after all rather small - of the "Founding Fathers" of Information Science, which includes Library Science.

He enjoyed the uncommon privilege of combining the qualities of a man of action and a man of science - perhaps more than any of his predecessors whose portraits or statues would adorn some Great Ancestors Gallery or Hall of Fame in IFLA's Headquarters: with those (to name but a few) like Naudé and Morel for France, Schrettinger and Hofmann for Germany, Otlet for Belgium, Edwards and Berwick Sayers for England, Rubakin for Russia, Dewey, Cutter, Waples and L.R. Wilson for the USA.

From a strictly quantitative point of view, he certainly comes to the fore: no other person could point to such an extensive bibliography - some fifty books, more than fifteen hundred papers, without counting those unpublished and technical reports, on all

aspects, theoretical as well as practical, of information and library sciences.

In a short talk like this today, I could not, of course, throw light on all "facets" (to use one of S.R.R.'s keywords) of such a multifarious activity. What I shall try to show is just to what extent the heritage of his thought still remains most living, and the influence of his research most timely. Indeed, one could assert that Ranganathan anticipated almost all recent developments in the field of library/information services organization, despite the fact that he died before the time of the full impact of "new information technologies".

Ranganathan was deeply "nationalist" (in the best meaning of this term)

- that is to say that his priority was to develop and modernize libraries and information services in his own country: India. However, he was also extremely active internationally: at Unesco, FID, IFLA - and the influence of his ideas extended much farther outside the limits of the Indian subcontinent.

The plan of my talk will follow the programme of this 58th General Conference of IFLA, and I will try to show, for each one of its sub-topics, what lessons could be drawn from S.R.R.'s doctrine.

***

1 - Conceptional framework for national library and information policies

Before becoming a librarian (rather late: in his early thirties) Ranganathan taught mathematics; he was treasurer from 1928 to 1934 of the Indian Mathematical Society, and from 1916 to 1928, he published in this Society's Journal an interesting series of "Questions and answers".

He was very much influenced by his initial scientific education, and when in 1924 he entered a new career as a librarian, he conceived very early the project of firmly founding library science on a scientific basis. Librarianship, as taught at University College School of Librarianship in London, where he was sent as student in 1924-1925, looked too strictly practical, empirical, like a mere collection of "recipes". During the four or five years after his return to the University of Madras, he completely reorganized the library and already began to deliver technical courses on library organization to teachers (at the University in 1928, from 1929 onwards at the Madras Library Association, which he had founded), but he simultaneously undertook a work of theoretical reflections, which he soon systematized and which resulted in his first (and perhaps most important) book: "The Five Laws of Library Science", published in 1931, where he sets forth all the basic ideas developed in his subsequent writings.

The "five laws" are as follows:

1. Books are for Use
2. Every reader his Book
3. Every book its Reader

4. Save the time of the Reader

5. The Library is a growing Organism

Ranganathan explains that, as library science is a social science, its "laws" are not "natural laws": they are normative principles which all organizational measures and technical operations must obey. Accordingly, the book details how library administration, cataloguing, classification, book selection, services to readers (loan, reference - including that for specialized users, which he will later call "long-range reference service") are, in a way, "ruled" (or governed) by the coherent application of the Five Laws. These laws also inspire the principles for organizing library systems (or networks) at local, regional, and national levels - that is, "national library and information policies" in IFLA's General Conference Programme.

In 1957, the Five Laws were published in a second edition, enlarged with a new chapter (the 8th) on "the development of scientific method applied to library science", taking into account the numerous changes which had occurred since the first edition. In 1969, a nice summary of the "five laws" was contained in the speech delivered by Ranganathan in Madras at the First Librarians' Conference of Tamil Nadu, under the title "Library-Science Based Library Service" (Library science, June 1969, p. 97-115). And, in the last year of his life, he again expounded his basic conception of "laws" in the social sciences, in a most interesting paper on "Social sciences: emergence and scope", which includes a figure showing the "Spiral of Scientific Method" (Library Science, March 1972, p. 63-82 - figure on p. 74).

INSERT HERE THE FIGURE from the Library Science, March 1972, p. 63-82 - figure on p. 74

2 - Organization and design of national library systems

As early as 1930, Ranganathan presented, at the library section of the First All Asia Educational Conference, a "Model library act for India". Then, in 1934, he published simultaneously a paper on "State planning and library movement (in the South Indian Teacher) and a concrete proposal for a "Madras public library bill" - which was finally accepted and included in the Statute Book of this State ... in 1948.

Detailed plans for various States were prepared by S.R.R. before Indian Independence (1947); seven others followed from 1947 to 1964.

However, while working on the problem of planning library systems at the "regional" level, he did not neglect the view according to which they had to be inserted into a general framework - that of India as a whole. Thus, he worked out three successive national plans: Post-war reconstruction of libraries in India (1944). National library system: a plan for India (1946) and a comprehensive Library development plan: thirty-year programme for India, with draft library bills for the Union and the Constituent States, published by Delhi University in 1950.

Ranganathan's studies in this field culminated with the "Public Library Development Plan for Fourth Plan Period" - covering in fact also the 5th and 6th Plans - which he prepared with the aid of several disciples, published as a whole issue of Library Science (December 1964). Using data from the 1961 Census, it contains

detailed projections for goals to be reached in 1980, on the "City Library System" (for urban areas of 100,000 people and over), the "Rural Library System" (serving towns under 100,000 people, and the whole rural population properly speaking from 315 "rural central libraries", 8,090 branch libraries and 241,366 "rural service stations" forming a network with 12,067 "librachines" - the ranganathanian term for bookmobile). It included special studies on the required man-power, annual finance, capital expenditure on buildings and equipment, the measures to be taken for "raising the library man-power", and a "model public libraries bill".

Ranganathan's theory on planning of library systems was very pragmatic, based on two complementary concepts: that of the "unitary library system" and the "federal library system". According to his own definitions:

> Unitary library system - A library system managed by a single agency, having a finance of its own, centralising impersonal activities such as the purchase and preparation of books, but having different service points in its area such as branch libraries and delivery stations.
>
> Federal library system - A library system made up of several single independent libraries or several unitary library systems, but cooperating with one another in activities or spheres mutually agreed upon - such as coordination and specialization in book selection, inter-library loan, and centralised technical processes such as classification and cataloguing by a common pool of staff (Op. cit., p. 289).

But there is, in the ranganathanian view, a third concept,

perhaps the most important: that of viable area. This is a zone covering a space large enough for its own resources allowing the possibility of establishing a "unitary library system with the required degree of efficiency": in the conditions of India in the sixties, this meant an urban conglomerate of no less than 100,000 people; for the rural zones, Ranganathan and his co-researcher Sugra Beghum do not specify in detail the criteria chosen, but the result is the network already mentioned above (p. 7) around 315 "rural central libraries".

The 1964 development plan also provides for a State Central Library in each State, whose main function is to buy the expensive books infrequently used and to lend them to the local systems, and, at the top, a National Central Library. The links of this whole system of public libraries with the "other library systems" are described in rather general terms: there will be a system of specialized libraries (which would itself be divided into several subsystems) and another one of academic libraries (university, college and school - for these, Ranganathan warns that India must not imitate the "wrong solution" chosen in the West - namely, establishing two separate systems: school libraries on the one hand and children's libraries on the other hand.

He indicates that the functions of the State Central Libraries and of the National Central Library include the management of legal deposit and the publication of the national bibliography - this requiring cooperation and a division of work between them, which must be specified in library laws (Op. cit., p. 305-7).

As published, the plan does not include details for each phase

of development for the 15 year period. Ranganathan explains (p. 284) that this would have to be based on data "for each city, district, constituent state, and the country as a whole in respect of public finance, local finance, national income, literacy, social education, formal education, and the existing library service" - which were not available.

Finally, very wisely, it is mentioned that "if the economic and industrial development does not take place at an adequate speed during the next three Plan Periods, the reaching of the library target will have to be delayed proportionately".

Obviously, Ranganathan, in his development plans for a library system - or more exactly of a "coordinate system of systems" for his country, took his inspiration from the examples which he had studied in England, the USA and some continental European countries (especially Denmark and Switzerland). But his work was also original, as he searched for solutions corresponding to local conditions, particularly with regard to the dispersion of rural populations; we may note that he was the pioneer of bookmobiles in India, having been instrumental in putting the first one into service in the Madras area in 1931.

In other writings, he propounded very clear ideas on the distribution of tasks between what could be called the "centre" and the "periphery". Library and information services must be decentralized, so far as services directly aimed at readers are concerned (consultation, loan, reference...) and central library/information institutions at the national level (INSDOC, INSODOC) must limit their activities to certain essential

functions, like publishing periodical advance documentation lists of scientific papers appearing in India, maintaining union catalogues (particularly for periodicals), translation and reprography services. It is especially the subject treated in what was probably his last paper, where he criticizes the programme set up for INSODOC (Library Science, June 1972, p. 145-187).

3 - Role of public, academic and special libraries in satisfying information needs

Ranganathan's career was in universities, first in Madras (1924-45), then in Banaras (1945-47), Delhi (1947-53/54) and again Madras (1962-72).

There is no doubt that his library science doctrine, expounded in his numerous writings, was elaborated on the basis of his own practical experience, in particular that acquired in the complete reorganization of Madras University Library (1925-30). But is also obvious that, from the beginning of this theoretical activity, he did not limit his views to academic libraries. During his stay in London, he had a long period of practical work at Croydon Public Libraries (which, under the management of Berwick Sayers' - his "mentor" at the School of Librarianship - were among the most progressive in the U.K.) and visited many libraries of all categories. Returning to India, he spared no effort to promote public libraries, but also school libraries (cf report at the All Asia Education Conference, 1930, significantly entitled "Secondary school libraries: physiology and anatomy of the heart of the

school" and his book School and College Libraries, 1942), then he militates in favour of the active participation of libraries in the movement, for adult education ("Adult education and library movement", speech pronounced in 1941 and published 1942; Education for Leisure, four editions from 1945 to 1961).

In 1950, the Rockefeller Foundation invited Ranganathan for an eight month study tour in the USA during which he observed the spectacular development of special libraries, of which he had already studied the methods in Scandinavian countries in 1948. From this period onwards, he devoted more and more efforts in the field of specialized information services for research institutions. Thus, he was one of the promoters of INSDOC in 1952, he organized and chaired in New Delhi in 1959 a Seminar on the role of libraries in developing research in the social sciences: its reports were published in 1960 and contributed to the creation of INSODOC ten years later (we have already noticed his 1972 paper criticizing the INSODOC programme). In 1963, he edited, with the aid of 31 disciples and friends, an important volume on Documentation and its facets.

During the course of this action and from the reflections which it provoked in his mind, Ranganathan built up a kind of "doctrine" on the relationship between library science and "documentation" (which was not yet labelled information science). We might summarize his thoughts as follows: there is no difference of nature between the one and the other, but a difference of methods, which he reduces to the distinction between "macro-documents" and "micro-documents" - the first type being books

(monographs), the second type including articles, technical reports, patents, standards, etc. This fundamental difference implies that different techniques must be applied to micro-documents for their selection, processing (e.g. "depth-classification") and - most importantly - for the services aimed at the readers (researchers, engineers, technicians, managers) who need what Ranganathan calls "long-range reference service" - that is, personalized information retrieval, supplying them with (hopefully...) all data corresponding to their research needs. These ideas are well summarized in three transcripts of seminars conducted by S.R.R. at the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC, Bangalore) in 1964 and 1967, published in Library Science, September 1965, June 1968 and March 1970, and also in the conclusion of the speech he delivered in Madras, April 1969, already cited above (p. 4) (Library Science, June 1969, p. 114-115).

4 - Users and their needs

To attach the greatest importance to the needs of users of libraries and information services was a ranganathanian leitmotif. It is interesting, in this connection, to remark that three of the five "library laws" (first, second and fifth) directly relate to these needs and to the methods aiming at ensuring an optimal service adapted to each one of the manifold categories of readers.

One may also remark that Ranganathan was a pioneer concerning surveys of readers' habits, with his statistical study on the users

of the Madras University Library, "Who reads what?", published in the South Indian Teacher", 1940.

However, he was very far from considering readers as mere statistical entities, just appearing as numbers on percentage tables and frequency curves. Though - so far as I know - he did not publish research specifically on the psychology of reading (as was done by Hofmann and Rubakin) there are, dispersed in his writings, many remarks and even anecdotes showing that he was most attentive to the personality of each reader, and in the transcripts of his published seminars, it is clear that he considered it essential to teach his students the appropriate methods for establishing confident relations and individualized connections with library users.

As I underlined in beginning my speech, Ranganathan did not live to see the full impact of "new technologies" on the services offered to the users: in 1972 there were still no "on-line services". However, he kept abreast of progress in the "mechanization of library services" (the title of his paper at the first IASLIC Conference, 1956) and I may cite this paragraph of his 1969 speech already cited several times: "Impact of Electronics".

> Law 5 of Library Science has now come with a message, it tells the Library:
>
> "You are a growing organism. Therefore you must grow with the world. The world has now entered the Electronic Age. You should use Electronics to speed up work and to save man-power wherever practicable. In respect of finding documents for readers, you should instruct Electronic Engineers to design a

Doc-Finder which will give speed without sacrificing any of the essential human needs laid down by the other Laws of Library Science" (Library Science, June 1969, p. 108)

We recognize very well here the humanist philosophy which was Ranganathan's.

5 - Staff training and development

Ranganathan's firm conviction was that the first condition for the development of libraries, anywhere, was to train adequate professional personnel, and to develop what we would today call a "human resources policy". As early as 1929, as we have already noted, he founded a library school in Madras, under the auspices of the Madras Library Association, taken over by the University in 1931, of which he is the director until 1944. Then, he taught library science at Banaras Hindu University for about 20 months (1945 - 47) and at the University of Delhi (1947 - 1953/54). But, most importantly, during the last twelve years of his life (1961/62 - 1972) he was at the same time professor at the Documentation Research and Training Centre, Bangalore (where he received in 1965 the prestigious title of "National Research Professor" - which has been given to only four other distinguished scholars in their respective specialties) and director of the Documentation Research and Training Centre (DRTC) established for him in Bangalore with the support of Professor Mahalonobis, director of the Indian Institute of Statistics.

During more than forty years of teaching, S.R.R. had developed his own pedagogy based on the alliance between theory (the "five

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laws" and the "postulates", "canons" and "principles" of the Colon Classification) and practice: observation, practical work, floor duty in stack rooms, and "clinical instruction" in reference service: application of the comparative method for the study of classification systems and cataloguing rules. Thus:

> "Few lectures; little of one-way talk; no dictation of notes; and no cramming. The learning is all done through self-study, class-room discussions, group discussions, tutorial work, essay work, weekly colloquia, and Annual Seminar - all done under the guidance of teachers". (Library Science, June 1969, p. 112).

Some seminars conducted by Ranganathan at DRTC, written out by his students have been published in Library Science (September 1965 and 1966, June 1968, March 1970, showing the functioning "in action" of what S.R.R. has named "India's method of library education" - in fact his own method.

At DRTC he introduced for students of the course leading to the "Associationship in Documentation" the requirement to complete, as one of the projects, a trend report on a specific subject corresponding to his own special interests, within six months after the formal course of fourteen months. A paper by one of these students, K. Chandrasekhara Sastri (Library Science, December 1970) describes in detail the technique used for preparing such trend reports.

Professional literature is, of course, a powerful instrument for training and development of library personnel: Ranganathan was very conscious of this, and apart from writing a whole series of

manuals, he created several specialized periodicals: Abgila (including Annals and Bulletin of the Indian Library Association, when he was President of ILA, 1949 - 53; the Annals were taken over by INSDOC from 1954 onwards as an independent journal); then - probably the most important ones - the volumes containing the papers presented at the Annual Seminar of DRTC (beginning 1963) and Library Science (beginning 1964).

Finally, it must be noted that Ranganathan attached much importance to the enhancement of librarians' status and emoluments: the various projects of library laws which he wrote all contain specific provisions with this aim.

6 - Impact of national policies on scientific, technical, cultural and social development

It is obvious that for Ranganathan the development of libraries of all categories (public, school, college, university) and of special libraries/information services is indissolubly tied to scientific, technical, cultural and social development. For him, this is a dual process: the history of libraries, as set out in his writings and seminars (among others, that of June 1964: see Library Science, September 1965, p. 279-292). Libraries are developing progressively in a rather strict parallelism with what we would today call the "modernization of society (he cited frequently the UK case, "used only as a Guinea pig"" as he said). But, conversely, an efficient system of public libraries is indispensable in a

society if it is aspiring to democracy:

> "The successful working of our democracy leading to ever-increasing social well-being has to depend on the enlightened and well-informed support and vigilance of the citizens as a whole. This makes a Public Library System a necessity". (Library Science, December 1964, p. 289).

On the other hand, economic development depends on the progress of scientific and technical research, which in its turn requires the development of adequate specialized libraries/information services: if these are not available, there will be a serious "loss in research potential" (Library Science, December 1970, p. 291-298).

Moreover, the functions of encyclopedic libraries (university and public) and those of specialized libraries/information services more and more overlap, and this requires the promotion of cooperation and coordination among them, as well as the intervention of central organizations, like a National Central Library, a National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre, and a National Documentation Centre for the Social Sciences (Op. cit., p. 304).

Unavoidably, this chain of reasoning lead to emphasize the obligation for the State to establish a "library policy" in a broad sense, aiming at what we would now define as a coordinated network of information systems. We are justified in asserting that Ranganathan was a forerunner in this field, anticipating policies now prescribed almost everywhere and (partially) carried into effect in some countries (USA, UK, Switzerland, Scandinavian

countries....) or in course of implementation (like in France, with the creation of the Bibliothèque de France and its "pôles associés").

7 - Role of regional and international cooperation

Although he remained deeply Indian, culturally and sentimentally, Ranganathan became, in a certain way, with the passing of the years, a kind of "citizen of the world". From 1948 onwards and until (in the last four or five years of his life) his poor health forbade him long range travel, he visited quite a number of countries: England, the United States, Scandinavian countries, Russia, and he even stayed about three years in Zürich (1955 - 57).

He was convinced of the universal value of the "normative principles" which he had established in his Five Laws, as well at that of the "postulates", "canons", and "principles" - deduced from the practice of his Colon Classification and later, presented as valid for any classification system. De facto, a substantive body of this theoretical construction was quite soon accepted in the Anglo-Saxon library world, mediated by British professional organizations (ASLIB, CRG - Classification Research Group, London, created in 1953 with the assistance of Ranganathan himself - to a certain extent also the Library Association).

In the field of classification - favoured by S.R.R. - his ideas enjoyed worldwide dissemination, mainly through the series

of eleven reports which he wrote as "rapporteur" of the Committee on general theory of classification created by FID and later renamed Committee on Classification Research, from 1951 to 1961, and also due to the fact that he was one of the "leaders" at the first and second International Conferences on Classification Research (Dorking, England, 1957, where he delivered the inaugural talk, and Elsinore, Denmark, 1964, which he chaired).

In 1949, Ranganathan participated in a seminar organized by Unesco on rural adult education. In 1950, Unesco asked him for a report on the mechanization of information retrieval and, in 1953, he published an important Union Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Periodicals in South Asian Libraries, on a Unesco contract (a second volume, for social science periodicals, could never be prepared due to lack of funds).

8 - By way of conclusion: the present value of Ranganathan's heritage

Twenty years after his death, what remains valid in the ranganathanian legacy, for librarians of this "fin de siècle"?

First of all, I would say: an inspiration - and the Indian term "guru" comes immediately to the fore. Ranganathan was truly a charismatic leader, in the Weberian meaning. All those who met him - and, for my part, it might have been half a dozen times - remained under the spell of his powerful personality and his numerous students and disciples are the continuators of his thought

and deeds, among others at DRTC.

Restricting myself to those parts of his work which correspond to the programme of this present IFLA Conference, I could not evoke as it would have certainly been desirable certain "facets" of his action which did not relate closely to the seven points of this programme.

Thus, I did not mention the numerous writings he dedicated to various problems related to cataloguing rules, always interesting and often innovating, particularly on corporate entries and government documents.

Concerning indexing, we may note that the method he invented - "chain indexing" has been afterwards adapted, modified and improved in various ways.

As early as 1948, Ranganathan suggested (at the ASLIB Conference: see Aslib Proceedings, vol. 1, 1949, p. 102-3) to undertake research on what he called "librametry" (and later "librametrics"), which corresponds to what we named "bibliometrics", now included in "informetrics" - a field which began its development some twenty years after S.R.R.'s initial proposal. He also proposed to apply operational research methods to library management - here again he was a forerunner.

I particularly regret not having been able to evoke, as would have been justified, the contribution of Ranganathan in the field of classification, which is now more fashionably called (reviving the use of an expression of H.E. Bliss) organization of knowledge. A whole conference would have been necessary, and on the other hand it is perhaps still too early to give an accurate evaluation of

the considerable research work accomplished by S.R.R. during almost half a century, for improving his Colon Classification, making it more flexible (and, in his vocabulary, more hospitable) and allowing its adaptation to the evolution and progress of science and technology.

What at least can be said in a few words, on this subject, is that ranganathian research - even if certain of its aspects would need a reevaluation - marked an important step and opened new research perspectives. It is certainly very significant that certain techniques which he advocated, like the building of "depth schedules" for making classified catalogues, are now the object of new studies, in view of their application to the most recent technologies (like OPACs and hypermedia) - without however recognition by their authors of their debt to Ranganathan (see, for instance, the project of Dana Roth and Linda C. Smith at CALTECH for what they call an "analytic catalog").

At the beginning of my talk, I observed that Ranganathan left us before the full impact of "new information technologies". However, he had very early recognized the importance of this development, as shown by his report for Unesco in 1950 on the mechanization of information retrieval (see above, p. 19) and his intervention at the first IASLIC Conference, 1956, on the mechanization of library services (above, p. 13). In his periodical Library Science, he introduced a series of papers (written by various specialists, not only from India under the label of "Non-conventional methods in document retrieval", continued afterwards by his disciples.

Among the lessons to be drawn from Ranganathan's work (his writings, but also his deeds) two are more particularly salient - which I would call the "virtue of example" and the "fruits of perseverance".

Virtue of example: it is prominent during all his struggles to promote library development in India. He reorganized Madras University Library as a model, with the (justified) hope that it would be imitated by other universities. He wrote a draft for a "library law" for the State of Madras: it would serve as a basis for similar endeavours in other States, and finally for the whole Indian Union. He created a first library school at university level - again as an example for other places.

Perseverance: before the creation of INSODOC, there were no less than six successive initiatives, within a period of ten years, before the final success (Library Science, June 1972, p. 150-153). Before finding an institution to which he could entrust the maintenance and development of Colon Classification (DRTC), he had approached, without success, some four or five potential "hosts".

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Historically, library science (and archivistics) was born in the Orient, broadly speaking - from Sumer and Egypt to China - but it was in Europe first, and thereafter in North America that it was developed in modern times, let's say from the Renaissance onwards (not forgetting the Greco-Roman and Islamic interlude). Apparently, Ranganathan was the first outside the industrialized Occident to

achieve original theoretical progress. During almost half a century, he did not simply imitate the models which the "North" was offering: he adapted and transformed them to respond to the specific conditions of his own country. During this endeavour, he was able to discover original solutions which in their turn have inspired not only the "South", but also the "North" itself.

Thus, he assuredly deserves a place of honour among the creators of a library science and an information science which, at the verge of the 21th century, must become "global".

Eric de Grolier
I.S.S.C., Paris
May 24th, 1992

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE NEW DELHI 1992

IFLA PROGRAMME UAP

Division:

Section/RT:

Joint Meeting with:

127-CORE-1-E

WORKSHOP THEME (IF APPLICABLE):

THE IFLA CORE PROGRAMME FOR THE UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS (UAP).

by

Graham P Cornish, Programme Officer

For internal use only:

Meeting No: 65

SI: yes/~~no~~

Estimated number of participants in the meeting:

100 cyms

THE IFLA CORE PROGRAMME FOR THE UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY OF PUBLICATIONS (UAP).

Graham P Cornish, Programme Officer

The basic concept underlying UAP is to make all publications available to all who require them whenever and wherever they are. A further element has recently been added to these basic concepts, namely that material should be available in a format which the reader can use. Many people will say that this is an ideal and it can never be achieved, except, perhaps, in a sort of bibliographic Utopia.

Clearly some kinds of documents are excluded from the scope of the Programme, such as confidential document, unpublished material and purely private communications but the Programme recognises no barriers of form and any kind of information carrier is included in the work of the Programme. Conventionally printed documents, audio and video recordings, computer software, photographs and other artistic works as well as maps, music and material in electronic form such as databases and full text material in CD-ROM all come within the scope of the Programme's research and educational activities.

Although the Programme is primarily a library-based one it has considerable interest in other elements of availability such as publishing patterns, bookselling and distribution and exchange programmes for educational purposes.

Similarly, all types of library come within the scope of the Programme which can include government and academic libraries, research institutions, children's libraries, public and industrial libraries as well as specialist collections dealing with particular topics or serving specific groups such as ethnic minorities or those with particular physical needs.

Because the concepts of the Programme are so wide it can be involved in developments in many different professional areas ranging from collection development and preservation/conservation to staff training library promotion, from legal problems facing information provision to high tech solutions to delivery of documents and information.

The past twelve months have brought both successes and disappointments for the Programme and the more important of both are described briefly here. As the work of the Programme and that of the Office for International Lending, are so closely linked, interlending being a "sub-set" of Universal Availability, some aspects of that Office's work will be included here as the Office and the Programme are staffed by the same personnel.

The Medium-Term Programme

The Medium Term Programme for 193/7 was agreed by the outgoing UAP Advisory Committee during the Moscow conference. It has four main goals: increase awareness of UAP concepts; study barriers to UAP; encourage library resources sharing; and investigate new methods of publication and distribution. It will be seen that the current programme of work reflects all four of these goals. Strenuous efforts have been made, and will continue to be made, to find resources which enable this programme of work to continue and, if possible, expand.

Research

The Programme has tried to develop a two-pronged approach to its work: on the one hand to develop research work which will forward understanding of the barriers to universal availability and on the other to produce materials which can be used to improve the present situation in realistic terms.

The report which the Programme prepared for Unesco, entitled *Role of national libraries in the new information environment* was used as a basis for the pre-conference seminar on that topic in Moscow last year and was published shortly afterwards. A resume of the report is due to appear in the journal *Alexandria* during this year.

Further work has been carried out on the concept of a voucher to help pay for international interlibrary loan transactions and, after discussion with CDNL, the report will be published by Unesco this year under the title *Feasibility of a voucher scheme to pay for international interlibrary transactions.*

Work is still in progress on the problems of availability of audiovisual materials. A literature review is nearly completed which will look at such issues as legal deposit, bibliographic control, statistics of production and major public collections. Some fieldwork is also needed and an external specialist has been contracted to carry this out.

Work on designing training packages for interlibrary loans staff has also been completed and published by Unesco as *Training modules for interlibrary lending and document supply.* This document will form the basis of a workshop in Delhi held jointly by the Sections on Interlending and Document Delivery and Education and Training.

The Programme was delighted that a Robert Vosper Fellowship was awarded to Barbara Stefaniak from the Institute for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information in Warsaw. Ms Stefaniak studied the availability of Western scientific journals in Poland and produced a most useful and well-researched report which forms the basis of her paper at this conference.

Two surveys have been carried out by Programme staff. One was a joint survey with the Section on Libraries for the Blind and looked at the availability of braille music. This was a follow-up to a paper given by the Programme Officer at a meeting of European Braille Music Librarians in Amsterdam in January 1991. The second survey was to determine the extent to which library associations throughout the world tried to help their members with problems of copyright. The results of this survey will be presented during the workshop on Copyright.

Two attempts have be .n made to carry out some work on the inter-relationship between national archives and national libraries and their respective roles in fulfilling the goals of UAP but lack of funds generally and lack of enthusiasm from the archives community have caused this project to be abandoned.

Some discussions took place between the Programme Officer and staff at Cornell University in the USA regarding a project to make available large quantities of agricultural textbooks and journals on CD-ROM. These would be supplied to countries with developing information systems for use and the Programme was anxious to study the impact of such availability on research patterns as expressed in demand for documents and also in local research publications programmes. Again, lack of funds and enthusiasm have meant this project has been shelved for the time being although it is hoped that something on these issues could still be done, perhaps in conjunction with a different project.

A quite detailed proposal was put to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft to study present and future publishing patterns in Eastern and Central Europe. This is to be a joint study with the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin. Discussions with German colleagues led to the conclusion that there are still many

changes taking place in this region and it would be better to postpone the project for the time being. Both parties hope to carry out this work at a future date.

Through the Programme Officer's links with the British Library, where he also fulfils the role of Copyright Officer, the Programme has been able to make a contribution to the thinking behind the CITED (Copyright in Transmitted Electronic Text) Project. This is an EC initiative to develop appropriate software and hardware to permit access on predetermined conditions to materials in electronic form without either inhibiting the user or threatening the rights owner. This project is designed to continue well into next year and is an important element in studying the barriers to availability in this area of growing importance.Through CITED links have been made with other EC projects - the Dictionary of Art, European Audiovisual Centre (EVAC) and the programme for legal reform for material for the handicapped (TIDE).

The Programme will also be giving methodological and practical support to a Unesco-funded project to examine the availability of community information in South Pacific island states. A regional focus has yet to be identified for this project but the funds have been allocated for it and the Programme Officer is ready to assist with advice as soon as the mechanics can be arranged.

Funds are also being sought from the Agence de Coopération et Culturelle in Paris for a study of legal barriers to availability of documents in countries with developing information systems, with particular emphasis on Francophone countries. Issues such as customs and excise, tariff barriers, copyright and taxation would be considered in this. A specialist in French law would

be required but the Programme would give general guidance and oversight.

In view of the Programme's interest in availability for the handicapped the Programme Officer has been invited to join the management of a project in the UK called "Share the Vision". This is studying in depth the contribution that public libraries can make to availability for print-handicapped people.

The Programme is fortunate that a further Robert Vosper Fellow will be undertaking her researches within the Programme's sphere of interest. Monica Guerrero from Mexico has been awarded a Fellowship to design a pilot document delivery system for Latin American countries and will do this in conjunction with the Programme staff.

Less concrete are discussions to examine document supply in Kenya and the possibility of a pilot project to look at availability in Tanzania.

Meetings and conferences

The Programme places considerable emphasis on making presentations at meetings and conferences. UAP is an educative process as well as a research and philosophical exercise!

During the last year Programme staff have attended several important meetings including the UNAL Conference on International Cooperation in The Hague where Mrs. Barwick acted as an observer and rapporteur.The meeting focused on the problems of exchange arrangements.

Graham Cornish attended the 4th. National Congress of Portuguese

Librarians in Braga and presented a paper on document delivery in the Year 2000.

David Bradbury and Graham Cornish prepared papers for the IATUL Conference in Tallinn and the ALA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The first dealt with the contribution of technological libraries to UAP and the second with international availability of information and the role of interlibrary loan.

Graham Cornish attended the inaugural meeting of EBLIDA (European Bureau for Library, Information and Documentation Associations) in The Hague and gave an overview of current proposed changes in EC copyright legislation.

David Bradbury and Graham Cornish also made major contributions to a meeting on charging for national and international interlibrary loan which was held in the UK in October.

Graham Cornish carried out a lecture tour of Sweden in October, visiting Stockholm, Gothenburg and Borås.

The coming year is already heavily booked with speaking engagements. Graham Cornish will be giving a paper on IFLA's attitude to copyright at a meeting of the European Blind Union in Denmark in September and making a presentation on electronic copyright during the Frankfurt Buchmesse. He will also present a paper on institutional attitudes to copyright during the Copyright Implications in a Digital Age conference in Cambridge in September. He will make a similar presentation at the Text Retrieval '92 conference in London, also in September.

A lecture tour of Finland is also planned for May at the invitation of Finnish colleagues which will be undertaken by

Graham Cornish.

The Programme was disappointed that it was necessary to cancel a conference on Advanced Document Delivery Systems which was planned for September this year. This was a joint venture with the London Business School which withdrew from the project in June, making it no longer a viable proposition.

One major development in the meetings area is the willingness of Unesco to fund UAP workshops once again. The Programme plans to run a UAP seminar in Cairo in November or December 1992 for Arab-speaking countries. Further seminars will take place in 1993 in Abidjan (for Francophone Africa) and Budapest. The latter will occur during the 3rd Interlending and Document Supply International Conference (29 March-2 April) for which arrangements are already well advanced. There will also be a parallel session on information transfer between Eastern and Western Europe to follow up to Gosen conference held in February 1991. This major event is a partnership between Unesco, the British Library, IFLA and the National Szechenyi Library.

Committees and representation

Members of the Office have attended meetings of the IFLA Copyright Committee and will be analysing the questionnaire as mentioned earlier.

David Bradbury is a member of the European Librarians and Publishers Group (ELP) and attends meetings to present the UAP viewpoint to publishers and keep a watching brief on matters such as electronic publishing and copyright.

Margaret Barwick attended an EC hearing in Brussels in January as one of the two IFLA delegates. This concerned a possible

protocol to the Berne Convention. Again IFLA was the only body representing the users as opposed to rights owners.

Publications

Publications continue to play a vital part in spreading the concepts of UAP. Those put out by the Programme this year are the proceedings of the Gosen conference on East-West Information Transfer; the proceedings of the 2nd. Interlending & Document Supply International Conference and a revised address list of national libraries. The Office for International Lending also produced a new edition of the *Guide to Centres of International Lending and Copying* which has already sold over 1,300 copies. A Japanese edition is being produced by the Japan Library Association.

Work has started on editing the papers from the Paris pre-Conference seminar on interlending and document supply for developing countries. It is hoped to finish this by the end of the year and the papers will be available at a small charge (free to developing countries) from the Office. Reports available from Unesco have already been mentioned.

A whole issue of *IATUL Quarterly* was devoted to UAP with Graham Cornish as the guest editor. The issue included a paper on the role of technological university libraries and UAP; the role of the subscription agent; and the digital library of the future.

Other journals in which articles have appeared by Programme staff include *IFLA Journal, Inspel, Law Library Journal, Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science, Information Management Report, Interlending & Document Supply* and *Národní Knihovna.*

Other periodicals in which articles will appear include *Documentation et Bibliothèques, Current Politics and Economics of Europe, Journal for Education in Library & Information Science* and *Encyclopaedia of Library Science.*

Staffing and finance

David Bradbury continues as Director of the Programme and Graham Cornish as programme Officer. Alison Gallico, one of the two part-time Research Officers, has left and will probably not be replaced, placing some limits on what the Programme will be able to achieve in the coming year. Margaret Barwick continues as a part-time Research Officer. During the year the Programme has been fortunate in having some extra staff to carry out some research work and some of the basic office routines but this happy arrangement has now ceased.

Financially the Programme is in some difficulty. Although most of the visit and meetings are paid for by the organisers and the Swedish government made a most welcome payment for the lecture tour in the Autumn, regular income is just not sufficient to pay for the Programme Officer's salary and the other necessities of life such as attending the IFLA Conference. The British Library generously supports the Programme with administration and other routine services but in times of constraints on public spending there is a limit to how far the BL can continue to help UAP balance its books.

Conclusion

Despite the present difficulties it is still our real hope is that support will be forthcoming to enable us to continue to fulfil these goals so that they do not become simply hopes.